

3rd & 4th Class
English



Biographies

The two types of stories written about a person's life are:

A biography — An account of someone else's life, not written by the person the story is about.

An autobiography — An account of someone's life, written by the person themselves. Auto means self, so that can help you remember that an autobiography is self-written.

What to include in a biography:

- Full name of the person
- When and where they were born
- Family information
- Lifetime accomplishments
- Major events in their life
- Lasting impact on society





Roald Dahl

Here is a good example of a biography that ticks all the boxes on the check list.

Courtesy of twinkl.ie



Roald Dahl was born on 13th September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but in 1920, she died when she was only 7 years old. Roald's father was so sad that he fell ill from pneumonia. A few weeks later, he also died.

His mother was a great storyteller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters.

Although Roald had a happy home life, he had an unhappy time at his school in Wales and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. His mother sent him to boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. He was just nine years old when he arrived at St. Peters School and met the all-powerful Matron who "disliked small boys very much indeed" and the cane-wielding Headmaster.



At the age of 13, Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire. He was happier here. He was brilliant at sports and was very good at boxing. The boys at the school were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company and this experience later inspired the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

Over the next few years, Roald Dahl worked in Africa for an oil company and then enlisted in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

In 1940, Roald Dahl was posted to Libya where he flew a Gloster Gladiator plane. He crashed in the Western Desert in North Africa and suffered such severe injuries to his head and back that he had to stay in hospital in Egypt for six months. He returned to the RAF but, after a while, he began suffering terrible headaches from his accident. This meant he had to leave because he could not



Roald Dahl

fly planes anymore.

In 1942, Roald was posted to Washington in the USA to work as an assistant air attaché. He met the author C.S. Forester, who suggested that Roald should write about his experiences flying planes in the desert. Roald started writing articles for newspapers.

He met and married actress Patricia Neal. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there. Roald Dahl and Patricia Neal had five children: Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy. However, Olivia tragically died at the age of 7 from an illness.

Roald Dahl started telling his amazing stories to his children at bedtime. He realised how much his own children enjoyed his stories and decided to write them down for all children to enjoy. 'James and the Giant Peach' was his first published children's book.

Roald Dahl had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He said, "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week. You'll find you have to look up at all these giants around you who are always telling you what to do and what not to do."

He had a passion for encouraging children to read. He believed that children should be "comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."



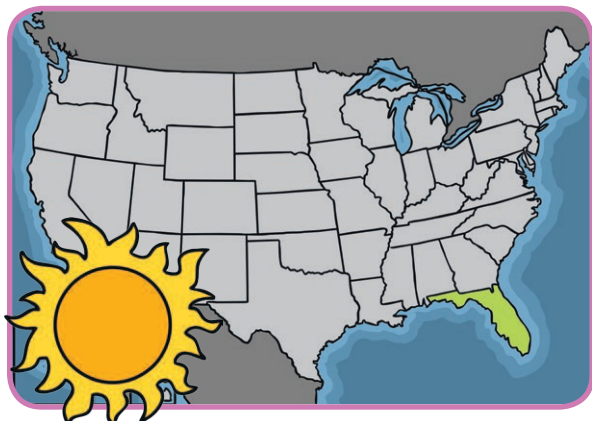
Ariana Grande

Who Is Ariana Grande?

Ariana Grande is an American singer and actress. She was born on 26th June 1993, in Florida. Her mother is called Joan, her father is called Edward and she has an older brother named Frankie.

Ariana's Childhood

Ariana loved to act and sing when she was young. She spent lots of time acting at children's theatre groups. Ariana was very good at acting and she was given the part of the lead character, Annie, in her first ever stage show when she was just 8 years old. Ariana began singing all around Florida. She even sang on a cruise ship!



Did You Know...?

- Ariana's first two albums went straight to number one.
- When Ariana was in 'Victorious', she had to dye her hair red every two weeks!
- Ariana's favourite singers are Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston.



When Did Ariana Become Famous?

Ariana's singing was so good that a local ice hockey team asked her to sing the national anthem at one of their games. It was shown on television across America.



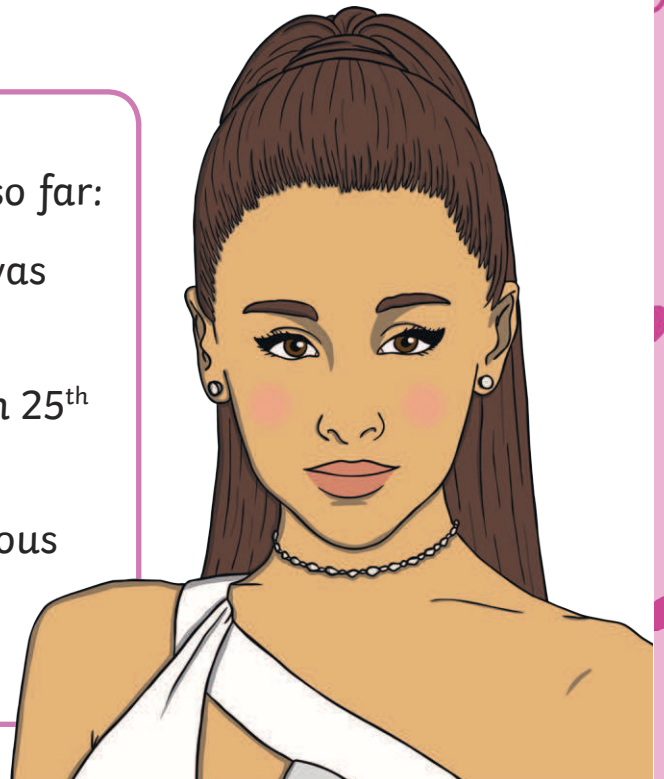
In 2009, Ariana got the role of Cat Valentine in the popular TV show 'Victorious'. The show was very successful. Almost 6 million people watched the show and Ariana became famous around the world.

Even though she was enjoying acting, Ariana knew that she really wanted to make music. She told her managers that she wanted to make her own album. Her managers thought that it would be difficult because she was so young but they believed in her and started working on her music.

Did You Know...?

Ariana has made three albums so far:

- Her first album, 'Yours Truly', was released on 30th August 2013;
- 'My Everything' was released on 25th August 2014;
- Her most recent album, 'Dangerous Woman', was released on 20th May 2016.



Ed Sheeran

Who Is Ed Sheeran?

Ed Sheeran is one of the world's most successful pop musicians. He is a British guitarist, songwriter, singer and record producer.

Early Life

Ed Sheeran was born on 17th February 1991 in Halifax, West Yorkshire. He learnt to play the guitar at primary school. His family later moved to Suffolk, where he began to write songs at high school.

A Career in Music

Ed started recording his music in 2004 and moved to London four years later, to continue his career in music. He began performing his music around different places in London.

In 2011, Ed was signed to a record company called Asylum Records. This meant the company would now record his music and advertise his albums so that they would sell. His first single, 'The A Team', sold over 58,000 copies in the first week!

His first album called '+' was a huge success and he won two Brit Awards for it in 2012.

Breaking the US Music Scene

Ed supported Taylor Swift's tour in the United States in 2013, which meant he played his music on stage before she did her show. This made him a



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popular artist in the US. In June 2014, Ed got his first number 1 hit in the UK with 'Sing'. The next album he released, called 'x', went to number 1 in both the UK and the US. This is very unusual for British artists.

Ed took a break from music but he returned in 2017. He released another album, called '+', and that went straight to number 1 in several countries.



Fascinating Facts

- Ed was one of the main acts performing at the Glastonbury Festival in 2017.
- When performing on stage, Ed creates all of the sounds using a sound looping machine.
- He was awarded an MBE for services to charity and music in 2017.